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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/820,530	03/29/2001	Kazutoyo Maehiro	6514-9	5426

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EXAMINER

ZHONG, CHAD

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2152

DATE MAILED: 06/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/820,530	<b>Applicant(s)</b> MAEHIRO, KAZUTOYO	
	<b>Examiner</b> Chad Zhong	<b>Art Unit</b> 2154	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 January 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Amendment A, filed on 01/14/2005.
2. Claims 1-10 are presented for examination. In amendment A, filed on 01/14/2005:  
claim 1, 5, 9, 10 are amended.
3. It is noted that although the present application does contain line numbers in specification and claims, the line numbers in the claims do not correspond to the preferred format. The preferred format is to number each line of every claim, with each claim beginning with line 1. For ease of reference by both the Examiner and Applicant all future correspondence should include the recommended line numbering.

Applicant's remarks filed 01/14/2005 have been considered but are moot in view at new grounds of rejection as necessitated by Applicant's arguments.

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101*

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Specifically, in claim 10, 'a program' is not running on a tangible medium, hence it is deemed non-statutory.

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in

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section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Riddle, US 5,854,898.

5. As per claim 1, Riddle teaches an electronic conference joining method in which a chairman who opens an electronic conference in which guests who join said electronic conference send a request for access to said area to from the terminals of the guests, the method comprising (Col. 1, lines 10-15; Col. 3, lines 24-27; Col. 5, lines 29-35; Col. 7, lines 1-5):

storing setup information for setting said area in a storage section of a chairman's terminal (Col. 7, lines 39-42),

creating from the chairman's terminal an invitation message comprising said setup information stored in said storage section (Col. 7, lines 1-10, lines 35-67),

giving an instruction from the chairman's terminal for transmission of said invitation message (Col. 8, lines 42-52),

transmitting from the chairman's terminal an invitation signal comprising said setup information to said guests' terminals based on said instruction (Col. 7, lines 40-67),

receiving at the guests' terminals said invitation signal and obtaining said setup information (Col. 8, lines 40-62),

creating at the guests' terminals an access request signal comprising said setup information (Col. 7, lines 50-67; Col. 2, lines 5-11), and

transmitting from the guests' terminals to said server, said access request signal in response to a guests' instruction (Col. 7, lines 10-15).

6. Riddle does not explicitly teaches an electronic conference area on a database, however, the

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conference server of Riddle can support multiple conferences in the conference server (Col. 18, lines 5-15; Col. 14, lines 5-10). The conference server keeps track of these conferences on the conference server and has the ability to connect multiple end users to a particular conference (Col. 13, lines 53-58). Hence server has storage means for storing conferencing data.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide database with Riddle to provide quick lookup of a particular conference the end user wish to join, proper indexing and collectively collection of data: As modified each conference is an area in a database as claimed.

7. As per claim 2, Riddle teaches the electronic conference joining method according to claim 1, wherein said setup information comprises at least one of a name of said electronic conference and a code number for accessing said area of said database (Col. 7, lines 60-67).

8. As per claim 3, Riddle teaches the electronic conference joining method according to claim 1, further comprising:

receiving at the chairman's terminal, an opening response signal from said server, said opening response signal indicating that said area has been set in said database, said opening response signal comprises an ID number for allowing said server to identify said area of said database (Col. 5, lines 29-35; Col. 7, lines 60-67),

transmitting from the chairman's terminal said invitation signal containing said ID number, and adding said ID number contained in said invitation signal to said access request signal (Col. 7, lines 50-67).

9. As per claim 4, Riddle teaches the electronic conference joining method according to claim 3, wherein said setup information comprises at least one of a name of said electronic conference and a code number for accessing said area of said database (Col. 7, lines 60-67).

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10. As per claims 5-8, claims 5-8 are rejected for the same reasons as rejection to claims 1-4 above respectively.

11. As per claims 9-10, claims 9-10 are rejected for the same reasons as rejection to claim 1 above.

### *Conclusion*

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following patents and publications are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to

“Method And Apraatus For Joining Electronic Conference”.

- |      |              |               |
|------|--------------|---------------|
| i.   | US 6708172   | Wong et al.   |
| ii.  | US 6651086   | Manber et al. |
| iii. | US 5793365   | Tang et al.   |
| iv.  | US 6,412,073 | Rangan.       |

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chad Zhong whose telephone number is (571)272-3946. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:15 to 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, BURGESS, GLENTON B can be reached on (571)272-3949. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair->


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direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CZ  
May 31, 2005

  
GLENTON B. BURGESS  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
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5/31/05